



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE BOARD OF PROBATION & PAROLE

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BOARD HIRES COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Nashville, Tennessee --- The Tennessee Board of Probation & Parole (BOPP) has hired a veteran state employee as its Communications Director. Melissa McDonald joined the Board June 1st.

"The Board of Probation & Parole is taking a step forward with the addition of this position," said Chairman Charles Traugher. "Staff members with other responsibilities have filled this role in the past. Now, we have someone whose full-time job is to help us to communicate effectively with the public, the media and our employees."

McDonald comes to the Board from the Department of Safety, where she served as Communications Manager. Prior to that, she was the Web Coordinator/Publications Specialist for the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

BOPP Executive Director Bo Irvin said, "I'm confident that Ms. McDonald will do an excellent job for us. The work done by the Board and its support staff, as well as probation and parole officers across the state, is important. By adding a communications professional to our staff, we will ensure that our message is clear and that we are easy to reach."

McDonald has more than 20 years of experience in radio news. She was News Director of the Tennessee Radio Network for almost five of those years. During her tenure, the network was honored with six national news coverage awards. Prior to that, she was an anchor/reporter at WSM Radio and WLAC Radio in Nashville, and served as News Director of WZGC-FM in Atlanta.

A native of Cookeville, McDonald attended Tennessee Technological University there. She was graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro with a B. S. in Mass Communications.

The Board of Probation and Parole (<http://www2.state.tn.us/bopp/home.htm>) is an independent seven-member board whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Board is charged with the responsibility of deciding which eligible felony offenders will be granted parole and released from incarceration to community-based supervision. Along with the supervision of those granted parole, the Board is also responsible for supervising felony offenders who are placed on probation by criminal courts. BOPP has more than 54,600 felony offenders on parole and probation supervision.

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